

Research Policy Project

Seattle Youth Commission 2009-10

Goal: Gain an understanding of community issues and local government. Identify community issues through public opinion and analyze census data or demographic trends. Understand multiple points of view in a society, the role of citizens, and examine local government structure (i.e. public sector) and the role of city staff.

Research and Explore the Issue. Use research methods such as the internet, newspapers, and articles as well as academic literature and experts to explore the root causes, history, trends, and perspectives on the issue. Draw from community knowledge, experience and recommendations as well as from the City of Seattle statistics, staff and budget records. Use the MYC staff and your policy aides as a RESOURCE!!!!!!!!!!!!!! We are here to support you!!!!

1. ***Gather Youth Input.** Meet with youth groups to get input on the issue, the causes and solutions.
2. **Gather community Input.** Contact and meet with community groups to gain a deeper understanding of the issue.
 - i. Which groups are most impacted by the issue/topic?
 - ii. Are there community groups already working on the issue/topic?
 - iii. What has the community done in the past to address the issue? Were they successful?
 - iv. What suggestions, recommendations, and solutions do community members or organizations have about the issue? What do they want the city to do about the issue?
 - v. What knowledge can groups share with you about the history of the issue?
 - vi. Are there organizations who receive city funding to address the issue? Are these groups able to meet the needs of the community? Back up your claim by talking with organizational staff, the people they serve, and the community at large.
 - vii. Does the community think enough is being done to address this issue?
 - viii. Can these organizations provide you with research, statistics, or documentation on the topic?
3. **Gather Information from City Staff and Resources including Policy Aids.**
 - i. Which department oversees the area of local government that works on your issue/topic?
 - ii. Within that department which staff people have knowledge/experience of the issue/ topic, work directly on the issue, have influence over how the city addresses the issue or has control over funding allocations.

- iii. What is the city doing to address the issue/topic?
- iv. What resources or funding is being used on the issue/topic?
- v. How are those resources being used or how is the money being spent?
- vi. Explore www.seattle.gov to gather information and statistics on the topic/ issue.
- vii. Research the Budget – how much money is being spent on the issue/ topic? How does this differ from the past?
- viii. Meet with city staff to ask the questions you haven't been able to find through your research.

4. Research the Issue

- i. Is this issue particular to Seattle or is it wide spread? Statewide, Nationally, International?
- ii. What are other cities doing to address the issue?
- iii. What are the causes of the issue/topic? Are their different perspectives on the causes or solutions of the issue/ topic?
- iv. How has government responded to the issue currently and in the past?
- v. Use the internet like Google and other search engines to find information and articles.
- vi. Are there newspaper articles, databases or archives related to the issue?
- vii. Are there statistics and census data on the topic/issues?
- viii. Are there local or national trends involving the issue.